

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 ADDIS 04505 251126Z  
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 AID-05 IO-13 SSC-01 /076 W  
-----064021 251331Z /43  
R 251013Z JUL 77  
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4972

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: MORG ET  
SUBJECT: SHAKE-UP IN TOP MILITARY COMMAND STRUCTURE

1. ETHIOPIAN MILITARY FORCES HAVE BEEN REORGANIZED, APPARENTLY IN ORDER BETTER TO COPE WITH CURRENT SERIOUS MILITARY SITUATIONS IN ERITREA AND OGADEN.

2. AS ANNOUNCED JULY 23 BY MAJOR HADDIS TEDLA, PMAC STANDING COMMITTEE MEMBER, NATION REVOLUTIONARY OPERATIONS COMMAND HAS BEEN SET UP IN ADDIS ABABA UNDER PMAC CHAIRMAN MENGISTU HAILE-MARIAM TO COORDINATE ALL REGULAR ARMED FORCES AND PEOPLE'S MILITIA. AT NEXT LOWER LEVEL, TWO JOINT COMMANDS HAVE BEEN FORMED IN AREAS OF MAJOR FIGHTING -- EASTERN ETHIOPIA, WITH HEADQUARTERS AT HARAR; AND NORTHERN ETHIOPIA, LOCATED AT ASMARA.

3. SECTOR COMMANDERS FOR THESE JOINT COMMANDS, PLUS FOUR NEW DIVISION COMMANDERS, WERE APPOINTED BY MENGISTU JULY 23, AS FOLLOWS:

A. COMMANDER OF EASTERN COMMAND - COL. ABERRA HAILE-MARIAM, HERETOFORE COMMANDANT OF HARAR MILITARY ACADEMY.

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PAGE 02 ADDIS 04505 251126Z

B. COMMANDER OF NORTHERN COMMAND - COL. HAILU GEBRE-MICHAEL, HERETOFORE COMMANDER OF FOURTH ARMY DIVISION.

C. COMMANDER OF SECOND ARMY DIVISION - COL. DEMISSIE BULTO. (MOST RECENT EMBASSY BIO SHOWS HIM AS

DIRECTOR OF TRAINING AT HARAR MILITARY ACADEMY IN 1973.  
DEMISSIE IS HIGHLY DECORATED AIRBORNE OFFICER, WHOM  
MAAG IDENTIFIED IN 1968 AS HAVING POTENTIAL TO RISE TO  
VERY TOP OF ETHIOPIAN ARMY.)

D. COMMANDER OF FOURTH ARMY DIVISION - COL.  
REGASSA JIMMA, NO BIO INFORMATION AVAILABLE.

E. COMMANDER OF SIXTH ARMY DIVISION - COL. ASRAT  
BIRRU, NO BIO INFORMATION AVAILABLE.

F. COMMANDER OF SEVENTH ARMY DIVISION - COL.  
MERID NEGUSSIE. MERID IS MEMBER OF PROVISIONAL MILI-  
TARY ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE WHO SERVED AS CHAIRMAN  
OF ORGANIZING COMMITTEE FOR FIRST ANNIVERSARY CELEBRA-  
TIONS OF ETHIOPIAN REVOLUTION IN 1975.

3. FIRST AND THIRD ARMY DIVISION LEADERSHIP APPARENTLY  
UNCHANGED BY REORGANIZATION OF DEFENSE STRUCTURE.  
TIENKEN

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Review Markings:**  
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